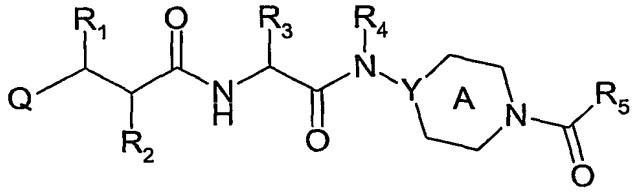
Claims:

1. A compound of formula (II), or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt, hydrate or solvate thereof



(II)

wherein

Q represents a radical of formula -N(OH)CH(=O) or formula -C(=O)NH(OH);

R_1 represents hydrogen, methyl or trifluoromethyl, or, except when Z is a radical of formula -N(OH)CH(=O), a hydroxy, halo or amino group;

R_2 represents a group R_{10}-$(V)_n$-$(ALK)_m$- wherein

R_{10} represents hydrogen, or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heterocyclyl group, any of which may be unsubstituted or substituted by (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, hydroxy, mercapto, (C_1-C_6)alkylthio, amino, halo (including fluoro, chloro, bromo and iodo), trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, oxo, -COOH, -$CONH_2$, -$COOR^A$, -$NHCOR^A$, -$CONHR^A$, -NHR^A, -NR^AR^B, or -$CONR^AR^B$ wherein R^A and R^B are independently a (C_1-C_6)alkyl group and

ALK represents a straight or branched divalent C_1-C_6 alkylene, C_2-C_6 alkenylene, or C_2-C_6 alkynylene radical, and may be interrupted by one or more non-adjacent -NH-, -O- or -S- linkages,

V represents -NH-, -O- or -S-, and

m and n are independently 0 or 1;

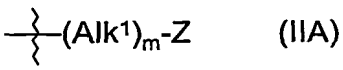
R_3 represents the side chain of a natural or non-natural alpha amino acid;

R_4 represents hydrogen or C_1-C_3 alkyl;

Y represents N or CH;

ring A is optionally substituted on one or more ring carbon atoms by C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy, or halo; and

R_5 represents a group (IIA),



(IIA)

wherein

m is 0 or 1;

Alk^1 represents a divalent C_1-C_3 alkylene radical;

Z represents hydrogen or cycloalkyl, phenyl or heterocyclic which is optionally substituted by

- $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl,
- phenyl
- monocyclic 5 or 6-membered heterocyclic,
- benzyl,
- phenoxy, or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy,
- phenylthio or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylthio, any of which is in turn optionally substituted by:
  - hydroxy or mercapto,
  - trifluoromethyl,
  - oxo,
  - nitro,

cyano (-CN)

bromo, chloro, fluoro, or iodo

-COOH, or -$COOR^A$,

-$CONH_2$, -$CONHR^A$, or -$CONR^AR^B$

-COR^A, -SO_2R^A,

-$NHCOR^A$,

-NH_2, -NHR^A, or -NR^AR^B,

wherein R^A and R^B are independently a (C_1-C_6) alkyl group, or R^A and R^B taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which may besubstituted by (C_1C_3)alkyl, hydroxy, or hydroxy(C_1-C_3)alkyl.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Z represents cycloalkyl, phenyl or monocyclic-heterocyclic, which is optionally substituted by

(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, or (C_2-C_6)alkynyl,

phenyl, or halophenyl,

trifluoromethyl,

monocyclic 5 or 6-membered hetrocyclic,

benzyl, or halophenylmethyl,

hydroxy, phenoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, or hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl,

mercapto, (C_1-C_6)alkylthio or mercapto(C_1-C_6)alkyl,

oxo,

nitro,

cyano (-CN)

bromo, chloro, fluoro, or iodo

-COOH, or -$COOR^A$,

-$CONH_2$, -$CONHR^A$, or -$CONR^AR^B$

-COR^A, -SO_2R^A,

-$NHCOR^A$,

$-NH_2$, $-NHR^A$, or $-NR^AR^B$,

wherein R^A and R^B are independently a (C_1-C_6) alkyl group, or R^A and R^B taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which may be substituted by (C_1C_3)alkyl, hydroxy, or hydroxy(C_1-C_3)alkyl.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1or claim 2 wherein R_1 is hydrogen.

4. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R_2 is (C_1-C_6)alkyl-, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_3)alkyl-S-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-, or (C_1-C_3)alkyl-O-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-.

5. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 wherein R_2 is n-propyl, n-butyl, n-pentyl, cyclopentylmethyl, cyclopentylethyl, cyclohexylmethyl or cyclohexylethyl.

6. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R_3 is

the characterising group of a natural α amino acid, for example benzyl, or 4-methoxyphenylmethyl, in which any functional group may be protected, any amino group may be acylated and any carboxyl group present may be amidated; or

a group $-[Alk]_nR_9$ where Alk is a (C_1-C_6)alkylene or (C_2-C_6)alkenylene group optionally interrupted by one or more -O-, or -S- atoms or $-N(R_{12})-$ groups [where R_{12} is a hydrogen atom or a (C_1-C_6)alkyl group], n is 0 or 1, and R_9 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted phenyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl group or (only when n is 1) R_9 may additionally be hydroxy, mercapto, (C_1-C_6)alkylthio, amino, halo, trifluoromethyl, nitro, -COOH, -

$CONH_2$, $-COOR^A$, $-NHCOR^A$, $-CONHR^A$, $-NHR^A$, $-NR^AR^B$, or $-CONR^AR^B$ wherein R^A and R^B are independently a (C_1-C_6)alkyl group; or

a benzyl group substituted in the phenyl ring by a group of formula $-OCH_2COR_8$ where R_8 is hydroxyl, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenyl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, di$((C_1-C_6)$alkyl)amino, phenyl(C_1-C_6)alkylamino; or

a heterocyclic(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, either being unsubstituted or mono- or di-substituted in the heterocyclic ring with halo, nitro, carboxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, cyano, (C_1-C_6)alkanoyl, trifluoromethyl (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy, formyl, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, di-(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, mercapto, (C_1-C_6)alkylthio, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mercapto(C_1-C_6)alkyl or (C_1-C_6)alkylphenylmethyl; or

a group $-CR_aR_bR_c$ in which:

each of R_a, R_b and R_c is independently hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl; or

R_c is hydrogen and R_a and R_b are independently phenyl or heteroaryl such as pyridyl; or

R_c is hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, or (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, and R_a and R_b together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a 3 to 8 membered cycloalkyl or a 5- to 6-membered heterocyclic ring; or

R_a, R_b and R_c together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a tricyclic ring (for example adamantyl); or

R_a and R_b are each independently (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, or a group as defined for R_c below other than hydrogen, or R_a and R_b together with the carbon atom to which

they are attached form a cycloalkyl or heterocyclic ring, and R_c is hydrogen, -OH, -SH, halogen, -CN, -CO_2H, (C_1-C_4)perfluoroalkyl, -CH_2OH, -CO_2(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -O(C_2-C_6)alkenyl, -S(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -SO(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -SO_2(C_1-C_6) alkyl, -S(C_2-C_6)alkenyl, -SO(C_2-C_6)alkenyl, -SO_2(C_2-C_6)alkenyl or a group -Q-W wherein Q represents a bond or -O-, -S-, -SO- or -SO_2- and W represents a phenyl, phenylalkyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkylalkyl, (C_4-C_8)cycloalkenyl, (C_4-C_8)cycloalkenylalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl group, which group W may optionally be substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from, hydroxyl, halogen, -CN, -CO_2H, -CO_2(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -$CONH_2$, -CONH(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -CONH(C_1-C_6alkyl)$_2$, -CHO, -CH_2OH, (C_1-C_4)perfluoroalkyl, -O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -S(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -SO(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -SO_2(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -NO_2, -NH_2, -NH(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -N((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$, -NHCO(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_4-C_8)cycloalkenyl, phenyl or benzyl.

7. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 wherein R_3 is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, n-butyl, benzyl, 4-chlorobenzyl, 4-hydroxybenzyl, phenyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl, pyridin-3-ylmethyl, tert-butoxymethyl, naphthylmethyl, iso-butyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, 1-benzylthio-1-methylethyl, 1-methylthio-1-methylethyl, 1-mercapto-1-methylethyl, 1-methoxy-1-methylethyl, 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl, 1-fluoro-1-methylethyl, hydroxymethyl, 2-hydroxethyl, 2-carboxyethyl, 2-methylcarbamoylethyl, 2-carbamoylethyl, or 4-aminobutyl.

8. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 wherein R_3 is tert-butyl, iso-butyl, benzyl, isopropyl or methyl.

9. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R_4 is methyl.

10. A compound, method, use or composition as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein in the group R_5, m is 1, and Alk^1 is -(CH_2)- or -(CH_2CH_2)-.

11. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein, in the group R_5, Z is a phenyl,pyridyl, thienyl, furanyl, pyranyl, pyrolyl, diazolyl, triazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, oxazolyl, ozadiazolyl, indolyl, benzisozazolyl, benzthiazolyl or imidazothiazolyl ring, optionally substituted as specified in claim 1 of claim 2.

12. A compound as claimed in claim 11 wherein the ring Z is unsubstituted or substituted by methyl, methoxy, ethoxy, methoxymethyl, ethylthio, chloro, bromo, hydroxy, nitro, phenyl, 2- or 4-nitrophenyl, dimethylamino, dimethylaminophenyl, methylsulphonyl, dimethylaminosulphonyl, 3-pyridyl or 2-pyrazin-2-yl.

12. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10 wherein, in the group R_5, Z is a cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl, morpholinyl, pyrimidin-2-yl, 1,2,3-thiadiazol-5-yl, 1,4-thiazol-5-yl, benzofuran-2-yl, 2-or 3-furanyl, 2- or 3-thienyl, 2- or 3-pyranyl, 2-, 3- or 4-pyrrolyl, 3-, 4- or 5-pyrazolyl, 3-, 4- or 5-isoxazolyl, or 2-, 3- or 4-pyridyl ring any of which may optionally be substituted by hydroxy, methoxy, ethoxy, mercapto, methylthio, ethylthio, methyl, ethyl, trfluoromethyl, fluoro, chloro, amino, methylamino, or dimethylamino.

13. A compound as claimed in claim 1or claim 2 wherein the compound is one specifically named and/or exemplified herein, or is the hydroxamate (Q represents a radical of formula -C(=O)NH(OH)) analogue thereof.

14. A method for the treatment of bacterial infections in humans and non-human mammals, which comprises administering to a subject suffering such infection an antibacterially effective dose of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13.

15. A method for the treatment of bacterial contamination by applying an antibacterially effective amount of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13to the site of contamination.

16. The use of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13 in the manufacture of an antibacterial composition.

17. A pharmaceutical or veterinary composition comprising a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13together with a pharmaceutically of veterinarily acceptable carrier.